Mrs Chapin

Leicester, (Mass.tts) Jan. 11, 1853.

Dear Mr. Estlin:

You are not less in my thoughts than when our correspondence was more frequent. The distance which separates us appears to me to grow less. How much less it really is than that between me & many persons whom I see daily. I feel that we are engaged in laborers for a common object, - and in a great & most worthy work, - and that we see eye to eye with regard to all the essential points of that cause. - I have been at home for a few days, since the close of the Bazaar, glad of the rest from its business and its confusion for a little time. I am to return to Boston tomorrow. On account of 2 or 3 very stormy days near the close of the Bazaar, it was determined to keep it open two days beyond the original design. It was thus extended to twelve days; in which time the receipts were over Four Thousand Dollars, fully $1000. better than last year, and with considerably diminished expenses besides. I think the treasury will be at least $1200. better off for this year's Bazaar than for the last year. This result, again, we owe mainly to the exertions and liberal contributions of our friends across the water. Their donations were munificent, & certainly never surpassed on any previous occasion. The goods made a very handsome display. I cannot of course particularize these donations now. I unpacked nearly every box myself, - the huge Bristol box among them, (by the way we give Bristol the palm for thorough & neat packing over all other places), and can bear witness to the beauty & value of the articles. We had

been led to think there would be no basket-work this year in your box; and I believe there was none from the Blind Asylum; but there was quite a handsome variety of other basket work, which sold very readily. - All the ladies admired the Honiton Lace, and it sold almost immediately, every piece of it, at high prices. - For myself I enjoyed the Box of Fripp & Thomas's Soap much more - (I have a passion for good hard soap, just to the extent that I detest - morally - soft-soap, if I may be allowed thus to trench on Mr. Garrison's province of plays upon words.). Said Soap was very invitingly put up, and I believe not a particle of it remained at the close of the 2d day. - The Scotch & Irish contributions were very beautiful & valuable. - We had a box from London (besides 2 small ones from Mrs. Follen) - which we called Mrs. Maskie's box. Mrs. M. wrote to Anne Weston a letter explaining the sources from which it was made up. She said a letter was to follow, protesting against the availing of a certain portion of its contents being devoted to the use of the American A. S. Society, & requesting that it be devoted to the help of Fugitive Slaves. This was somewhat embarrassing, as the Bazaar has always steadily refused to receive articles to be sold on commission, or to divide proceeds of sales with any other object, & this seemed a somewhat similar case. However as we had got the box, & had paid $30. duties upon it (before Mrs. M's letter was seen) (and I think freight besides), and as there really seemed nothing else that could be done with it, the Ladies decided to put the whole into the Bazaar, and to appropriate the proportion, claimed by the Protestants,

in the way they desired. I believe the difficulty arose out of some expressions in the Standard, about the Atonement, ~~dddd~~ used by E. Quincy, - and something of a similar nature said by P. Pillsbury. - It seems strange to me that English people should be so sensitive, & so unable to make allowance for one's jocular propensities, or to see the faith and real principle thro' this veil of sarcasm. If they are not much belied, the English clergy are a race of humourists, and can enjoy fun, and create it too, as well as any others. And we have an idea that they freely indulge in many social customs, which would not be tolerated here in "the ministry." - I do not, of course, mean that our ministers, as a class, are one whit better, for this required abstinence, than yours. - But I should think that sensible people would understand the reasons of ridicule and sarcasm, especially when the vilest doctrines of Slavery-propagandism are mixed up with the most sacred names, and the most venerated theories & doctrines. I think there must be a morbidly-wakeful jealousy, in regard to the American Abolitionists, not ~~used~~ exercised towards any other class of sinners or sinnery. - I see in it only a part & parcel of the same devilish cunning, which, in this country, has long been bent upon causing, ~~making~~ every form of hostility to Slavery to be regarded as hostility to religion, and as rank Infidelity. 'Tis a pity that thoughtful and good-hearted people cannot see that a very good name may cloak over, and make respectable, a very vile & hateful thing.

I do not, of course, mean that these London protestants were actuated by the motives I speak of; but I do think them to be the victims of an intentional deception; and I cannot but wonder that they should be so deluded.* The said box was a very rich and handsome one. I heard a portion of Mr. Naylor's letter read (I believe it was addressed to W. Phillips), and I thought it extremely friendly & judicious. I should judge that she understood the whole matter correctly. And I can certainly join with her in the wish that since these expressions & this style of writing do give pain & offence to really good & serious minds, they might be omitted. I mean, if I were the writer I would omit them; but, ~~as~~ beyond suggesting & making the facts known, we do not hold to suppressing the anti-slavery utterances of those who have given such proof of their sagacity, and fidelity.

And now I must acknowledge your donation of books & pamphlets to myself personally. I was very much pleased with the specimens of "Uncle Tom's Cabin". The circulation of that book is truly wonderful. It not only will wake up many minds; but it shows how thoroughly the Anti-slavery work of 20 years' past had already taken hold both of the American & English Conscience. The "Almanac" is a capital thing, & so handsomely got up. We had a good laugh, ~~also~~ when we found that one of the statements in it was made on the authority of Mr. A.S. Bugle, of Ohio. For the "White Slave" & Hays's "Napoleon the Little" we are also much obliged to you. I should have been glad of a few extra copies of the "Special Report" of the B. & Clifton Society. — And, with regard to that report,

* The protestors [illegible] came to [illegible] but I have not seen it.

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our B. & C. friends have good reason to blame our procrastination. I had no doubt Mr. Gay would notice it, and I do not know to this day (tho' I have twice written to him on the subject) why he did not. (He did write me lately, that he had mislaid his copy.) He is often wishing we would keep him well-informed on all matters transpiring in G. Britain, & coming to our knowledge thro' letters, &c. But, as to this Report, I was confident that you, or Miss Estlin, would send a copy to the Standard, & that was enough. — For myself, I think it would have been a good thing, as so few copies of the pamphlet can come to this country, to have printed the whole of it in the Standard — say in 3 or 4 successive numbers. — However, as you probably will have seen before you receive this, a notice and brief abstract of the Report appeared in the "Standard" about 3 weeks since. It was, for want of a better, drawn up & sent by myself, Ade helping me in the copying of extracts from the report, for I was unwilling to cut up my copy, or lose it by sending it to the N.Y. printers. I sent a copy of the Standard, containing the notice, to Miss Estlin last week. — Should you have an off°. to send, & 3 or 4 copies of the Report to spare, I should be glad to get them. — I hope it has had a good circulation in England and in Scotland. It cannot fail to do a cleaning up work with candid minds. — Let me thank you for your kind remembrance of me. & for the books sent.

I have been thinking of sending to you a copy of the illustrated (American) edition of "Uncle Tom".

But I lately saw an account (I believe from W. C. Bryant, Editor of the N.Y. Evening Post, now in Europe) of the great rigour of the English Custom house as to books. He stated that an American author could not take a copy of his own book, printed in America, thro' the Liverpool Custom-house, if said book had been re-printed in Eng and he gave an instance wherein such a volume was taken by the officers from its possessor & author. He said the English publishers furnished lists of books, published or ~~printed~~ reprinted by themselves, to the C. H. officers, who governed themselves strictly by said lists as to what would, or would not, be suffered to pass. Now if this is the case, my purpose of having you see a copy of our illustrated Uncle Tom would be pretty sure to be defeated. I wish I could know, before we send off our Annual Box, whether the above, or not, a correct statement of facts, - that I might govern myself accordingly.

We have now had 3 numbers of the Anti Slavery Advocate. I obtained 20 subscribers in & near Boston, and the list might be considerably extended, I have no doubt. I hope soon to get from Mr. Webb some extra ~~numbers~~ copies of these numbers (or of such as can be furnished), for there is quite a demand for them, and I have but a single copy left of each number. It is a very readable & useful sheet.

- Here I must break off. Affectionately & respectfully

Yours, Sam'l. May Jr.